

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for depositing a coating on one face of a container ~~[[3]]~~ made of a thermoplastic using a low-pressure plasma by excitation of a precursor gas by UHF electromagnetic waves in a circular vacuum chamber ~~[[1]]~~ containing said container, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the chamber ~~[[1]]~~ is sized in relation to the frequency of the UHF electromagnetic waves so as to obtain a coupling mode that generates several electromagnetic fields inside the chamber, whereby it is possible for several respective containers ~~[[3]]~~ to be simultaneously treated in the same chamber~~[[(1)]]~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a TM 120 coupling mode is established, which generates two central fields (4_A, 4_B) inside the chamber, whereby two containers ~~[[3]]~~ can be simultaneously treated in said chamber ~~[[1]]~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A device for depositing a coating on one face of a container ~~[[3]]~~ made of a thermoplastic using a low-pressure plasma by excitation of a precursor gas by UHF electromagnetic waves in a circular vacuum chamber ~~[[1]]~~ containing said container

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[(3)], which device comprises a UHF wave generator [(7)] and a UHF waveguide for connecting said generator to a window [(2)] of the side wall of the chamber [(1)], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the chamber [(1)] is sized in relation to the frequency of the UHF electromagnetic waves in order to establish a TM₁₂₀ coupling mode that generates two central fields (4_A, 4_B) in the cavity [(1)], whereby it is possible for two containers [(3)] to be simultaneously treated in said chamber [(1)].

4. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the generator [(7)] emits an electromagnetic wave having a frequency $f=2.455$ GHz and in that the diameter of the chamber [(1)] is approximately 273 mm.

5. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 3 ~~[(or 4)]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the chamber [(1)] contains two quartz envelopes [(8)] mounted in a vacuum-tight manner in the chamber and placed respectively so as to be approximately coaxial with the two central fields (4_A, 4_B), in that the chamber [(1)] includes a single window [(2)] for injecting the UHF waves, the window [(2)] being located along the axis of symmetry of the two central fields (4_A, 4_B), and in that a single cover [(9)] for closing off the chamber [(1)] is equipped with a single coupler [(10)] for connection to a vacuum source, which is divided into two (at 11) in order to be connected to the abovementioned two respective envelopes [(8)], with two precursor gas injectors [(13)] that are connected to a single precursor gas source and with two support means [(12)] for the two respective containers [(3)].

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6. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it includes positionally adjustable bottom (17_i) and top (17_s) plates suitable for acting on the respective return fields (5_A, 5_B) so as to refine the coupling according to the various types of container ~~[(3)]~~ that can be treated.

7. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 5~~[[or 6]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is designed for coating the inside of containers and in that for this purpose, the precursor gas injectors ~~[(13)]~~ are designed to sit inside the respective containers ~~[(3)]~~ when the latter are supported by support means in the envelopes ~~[(8)]~~.